

For Immediate Release

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Washington, D.C.— This week, Congressman Sires voted for several bills that work to improve veterans insurance and health care services; mandate stricter certification requirements for jobs-related VA posts; and protect the families of fallen soldiers from predatory insurance practices. Two bills in particular would help ease veterans' entrance into the work force.

"The action that my colleagues and I took in the House today is an important step toward securing our veterans the rights and services that they deserve," said Congressman Sires. "I can think of no better way to honor their bravery and sacrifice than to support them as they look for work once they return home."

The first bill, the Veterans Benefits and Economic Welfare Improvement Act of 2010 would establish a new employment transition program to help veterans develop marketable skills and would create an awards program to recognize businesses for their contributions to the employment of veterans. Additionally, this bill would extend the 120-day period for veterans to apply for disability claims.

A second bill, the Blinded Veterans Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2010, would authorize \$10 million annually until 2016 for the U.S. Department of Labor to make grants to programs and job placement initiatives geared specifically toward homeless female veterans and homeless veterans with children. Additionally, this legislation would authorize the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to make loans to veterans starting small businesses. These two pieces of legislation passed through the House of Representatives on September 28, 2010 by voice vote and are currently pending before the Senate.

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